

PTSA General Meeting

September 16, 2020

Attendees: Alyssa Hays, Mariana Zantop, Megan Hochstatter, Sarah Kent, Heather Robison, Lily St. Leger, Marisa Coluccio, Meg Gayson, Meg Viera, Allie Schwartz, Danielle Holland, Amanda Bagsby, Ankita Druhi, Anya Rudnick, Anne Rakunas, Chris Rogers, Chris Tschirgi, Cindy, Jay Johnson, Scott Corwin, Sharon Hamill, Tara Leybold, Jerica Saucedo, Patricia Milillo, Denis Koenig, Filiz Topatan, Irene Akio, Matt Walsh, Isabella Hashimoto, Jen Siems, Jennifer Campbell, Jennifer Colosimo, LG Stylo, Nathan Hoerschelmann, Tammy Jackson Alexander, Jamie Prins, Samara Louton

Code of Conduct

- This is a code of conduct for how we want to interact in PTSA meetings and as a PTSA in general.
- Need to vote for approval
 - To initiate a vote, need someone to recommend and another person to second.
 - When we vote for something more sensitive (like a board role), we will vote anonymously. Otherwise, we will take a vote (yay/nay) in the chat, while virtual.
- Concerns:
 - Under attentive, the term “stepping back” is not inclusive for those with mobility issues. Can there be more inclusive wording such as “move/moving”?

Heads Up:

- Will share information about how to join the PTSA to ensure there is a better feeling of agency and avenue to share opinions.
- We need help revising our PTSA standing rules/by-laws.
 - Alyssa has compared our standing rules with the WA and National PTSA recommendations with a lens to our own Madrona community.
 - Alyssa would like 2-3 volunteers
 - Megan H volunteered if there are no new people who want to engage.
 - People can reach out to Alyssa at Alyssa.hays@gmail.com
- SOA (Standing of Affiliation)
 - Insurance is updated
 - Insurance supports our activity in the building (for example PEP), during meetings, with volunteers, and PTSA-run events.
 - Charter is updated
 - In process of updating our status as a charitable organization
 - Taxes will get filed prior to Feb 19th, 2020. Marisa is working on this.
 - We will work on creating a nominating committee in late December. We have not had one in recent history.

Principal's Report – Mary McDaniel

- Staff working incredibly hard to support students.
- Strong Start allowed teachers to build strong relationships with students and iron out technical problems.

- Enrollment continues to increase. Now at over 250, from a low of 240. Have increased from 24 to 32 Kindergarten students.
- Curriculum Night went well. Mary attended all of them to support parents and teachers.
- One more Special Ed meeting tomorrow.
- Backpack Brigade – had to stuff more today for new enrollees.
- Laptops and iPads – more have been received for new enrollees.
- Hot spot challenge. Bailey Gatzert provided 30 hot spots to Madrona families, but 60 families in need of one. Mary would like to pick up hotspots from the District for our families.
- Still working with staff and students on how to navigate different platforms. Teachers trying to make daily connections with the students.
- Staff are on stand-by at the office at school to help with technical issues.
- Launch Daycare is providing care to families, including McKinney Vento (homeless) families. Launch is allowing students to do remote learning from there.
- Thank you to PTSA for supporting Madrona families and students.
- Parent question: How is attendance in the remote learning environment? What are you seeing as the cause for students not making it to the virtual classroom?
 - Attendance is around 85-90% so far. Working to support the other 15%.
 - Wifi connection is the greatest challenge. The school is working with families that don't have internet access. Have distributed 4 hotspots so far.
 - District is offering hotspots to students with unstable housing and 6 months of connectivity through Comcast for those with stable housing. Some kids need two hotspots if they live in more than one place.
- What can PTSA do to support these efforts?
 - We can address our concerns to Superintendent@seattleschools.org and/or SPS Director, Tech Dept, jdberge@seattleschools.org tel. 206-252-0086
- BLT (Building Leadership Team) is the decision-making body at Madrona Elementary. Nathan and Sarah represent the parents. Grade level teams are represented on BLT to bring staff concerns to the fore. Mary meets with the PTSA to share BLT info with them, with a focus on kids furthest from educational justice.
- The PTSA is there to support ALL our students.
- Danielle shared information about a Creative Arts Ed Workshop that is free for teachers to help them make classes more dynamic, including add-ons that teachers can use on Teams.
 - Danielle will send e-mail with more information.

Family Resource Center (FRC) – Sarah Kent and Sharon Hamill, Co-Chairs

- The FRC was founded to provide uniform swap, then expanded to provide supplies during school closures. Now it's supporting families during Covid with food and hygiene supplies.
- The FRC has served over 250 kids and 25 families/week through its Grab&Go pantry and direct grocery deliveries. Deliveries were stopped in August because there were not enough staff members to deliver to families.
- Grab&Go pick-ups are in the library on Tuesdays from 12-3pm and Fridays 3-6pm.

- The FRC partners with Community Based Organizations including AME Church, Green Plate Special, Rainier Valley Food Banks, Slash Fabrics, South End Sewers (masks), and Fair Start, which provides up to 20 freshly frozen meals for Tuesday's Grab&Go.
- The FRC is currently doing a clothing drive for rain jackets, winter jackets, rain boots, hoodies, etc. These can be dropped off at the school.
 - Sam will make a FB coat drive announcement.
- The Family Support Fund is accepting online donations through the website (just say it's for the FRC). Spending is currently greater than income. Looking to apply for grants and also band together with other PTSAs to increase funding.
- Seeking volunteers to help out.
 - E-mail Sarah (skkent@seattleschools.org or sarahbenton@yahoo.com) or Sharon (Shababes@gmail.com) if interested in joining the FRC team.
- Jen Campbell has put together training materials for volunteers and shifts to sign up for.
 - To volunteer at the Grab-and-Go pantry go to <https://signup.com/go/RNsfHTm>
- Sign-ups are also posted to the family Facebook group, on the blog, and at the end of Mary's weekly emails.

Q&A

Please give an overview of how the PTSA functions and how it communicates with the school. Is the role of the PTSA going to be different this year?

- Lily and Alyssa, Co-Presidents, meet with Mary twice a month, have been doing listening sessions with the teachers, and get feedback from the FRC on the needs of students and families.
- The PTSA is usually focused on events and community building.
- The PTSA has committees that have monthly PEACH (PTSA Executive and Committee Heads) working meetings to coordinate committee work. PEACH meetings provide agenda items for the general PTSA meeting.
- Mary sometimes asks the PTSA to support the school through volunteers and financial assistance.
- The PTSA is working on making audio available to parents so everyone knows what is going on.

Jog-a-Thon – Meg Gayman, Chair

- The Jog-a-Thon will be virtual this year.
- All students can participate.
- There will be 2 options – running or at home workout. Meg is collaborating with Mr. Stewart to work out the details.
- In home or close to home.
- October 19-23th.
- Students sign up via Pledgestar – ask for flat pledge or variable pledge.

- Working out the details for how to count – laps or minutes? Minutes are more inclusive than counting laps.
- Students submit one count/score.
- Considering inviting non-students to participate. In ask email, ask friends to fundraise for us. For example “I’m going to run for 60 minutes. Can you match this?” They would get their own fundraising page. These pledges would not count towards participation.
- Participation is what counts towards the Golden Shoe Award. Mr. Stewart can help each student come up with a program that works for them.
 - Meg will ask Mr. Stewart if he is up for this.
- How about “Move-a-Thon” rather than Jog-a-Thon?
- Kids can do as many minutes as they want over the course of 4 days, but have to put a cap on the variable pledges.
- Volunteer opportunities – lead indoor sessions, roving cheerleaders?
- Budget needs for Move-a-Thon are approximately \$700. Golden Shoe Prize, pizza for biggest outside fundraiser, pizza party for class with the most pledges, etc.
- Should envelopes be distributed and collected?
- Should we just do flat rate vs. variable?
- Can we send out video walk-through or link about how to use Pledgestar for families?
 - Teachers can send this link out to their class families.
- Fundraising goal is \$30,000.
- Meg will send info to Mary for Panther Paw Newsletter.

Budget – Marisa Coluccio, Treasurer

- Need to have line items, even if they are 0.
- FRC
- Arts Infused Education
- Covid Related Supports - \$30,000 donation
- Membership Fund to cover \$25 for people who want to be part of PTSA.
- Fish Fry
- Jog-a-thon (Move-a-Thon)
- Mayfair merchandise
- Amazon, individual contributions
- \$93,000 total revenue (inflated because of \$30,000 donation)
- Possible virtual Multicultural Night
- PTSA Zoom account
- Money for texting families
- If you buy things on Amazon, consider using smile.amazon.com and designate Madrona Elementary PTSA as the beneficiary. Depending on how much you spend, you can get up to \$90 donated per year.
- Meg Gayman 5K fundraiser (add to revenue line and to expense line)

- The PTSA received a \$1,000 safe routes to school grant earlier this year to purchase books featuring diverse families walking, biking, and using transit to get to school. The plan is to purchase the books and distribute them to students via the Family Resource Center. The \$1,000 can be added under the line item for grants.
- There are many arts organizations/companies that are moving shows/events forward virtually. Lots of ideas out there for creating event options for kids and their families to join and watch online. The money in the arts line can be used to support kids' access to these events.
- Is it realistic to aim for \$30,000 from the Jog-a-Thon? This can be amended later if needed. We can split it into two fundraising events, one in the fall and one in spring, aiming for \$20,000 and \$10,000, respectively.
- Don't have an Annual Ask right now.
- Move to vote on budget. We have a quorum. Budget approved.

Committee Updates

- By Friday, Alyssa will provide document with link for committees on Blog with idea of what these roles entail.
- Chris provided guidance on setting boundaries on your time commitment.

Staff Appreciation

- Would like to personalize it more for individual teachers.
- Planning monthly Zoom meeting where teachers can tell us what they need and how we can support them with our conversations and advocacy.

Volunteers

- Need help with breakout sessions. Each session is about 20 minutes. Small groups aren't daily, but volunteers need to observe lesson to know what is expected in the small group. Volunteers only need to sign up for one.
- Sarah and Tana will help with onboarding volunteers. Training includes diversity and equity training.
- Room parents to help coordinate break out group volunteers.
- The District has rolled out a brand new volunteer database.
- If you've volunteered before, you don't have to go through process again.
- For room parent questions you can email smlouton@gmail.com or averyhas2moms@gmail.com